

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended). A staple forming device for bending staple blanks into a shape suitable for being driven into an article including a plurality of components for securing those components together, said staple forming device comprising:

a staple forming arrangement having a main body portion, including at least one leg-bending portion, and a staple crown-forming portion, said main body portion and said staple crown-forming portion being reciprocatingly interconnected, whereby said staple crown-forming portion reciprocates relative to said main body portion together;

an elastic element interconnected between said main body portion and said staple crown-forming portion, said elastic element biasing said staple crown-forming portion away from said main body portion and permitting said staple crown-forming portion to yield toward said main body portion during staple blank bending.

2. (original). The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

said staple crown-forming portion secured in at least one guide arrangement to said main body portion and configured for reciprocation therein.

3. (original). The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a gap space provided between said main body portion and said staple crown-forming portion, said gap space configured to accommodate reciprocating motion between said staple crown-forming portion and said main body portion.

- 4. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
- a gap space provided between said main body portion and said staple crown-forming portion, said gap space configured to accommodate reciprocating motion between said staple crown-forming portion and said main body portion; and
- said elastic element interconnected across said gap space for biasing said staple crown-forming portion away from said main body portion.
- 5. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
- a driver blade interconnected with said main body portion of said staple forming arrangement.
- 6. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
- a driver blade integrally formed with said main body portion of said staple forming arrangement.
- 7. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
- a driver blade interconnected with said main body portion of said staple forming arrangement; and
- said staple crown-forming portion being adjacently positioned to said driver blade and arranged for reciprocation relative thereto.

- 8. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
a driver blade interconnected with said main body portion of said staple forming arrangement; and
said staple crown-forming portion abuttingly engaged with said driver blade and arranged for reciprocation relative thereto.
- 9. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
a driver blade interconnected with said main body portion of said staple forming arrangement, said driver blade and said main body portion being of sheet construction; and
said driver blade being located substantially on a common plane with said main body portion.
- 10. (previously amended).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one leg-bending portion positioned along side said staple crown-forming portion.
- 11. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
two leg-bending portions, one each positioned along either of two lateral sides of said staple crown-forming portion.
- 12. (original).** The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
said elastic element being at least partially hairpin shaped.

13. (original). The staple forming device as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

said elastic element being a leaf spring.

14. (previously amended). A staple forming device for bending staple blanks into a shape suitable for being driven into an article including a plurality of components for securing those components together, said staple forming device comprising:

a staple forming arrangement having a main body portion, that includes at least one leg-bending portion, interconnected with a staple crown-forming portion by a take-up device configured to permit reciprocation of said staple crown-forming portion relative to said main body portion; and

said take up device including a biasing means for applying an outwardly directed force between said staple crown-forming portion and said main body portion, said biasing means having sufficiently high biasing strength for maintaining said staple crown-forming portion in an extended staple bending position against the resistance of a staple blank being bent over a bending die.

15. (original). The staple forming device as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

said biasing means having sufficiently low biasing strength for permitting said crown-forming portion to retract toward said main body portion after a staple blank has been bent into a staple shape and as said main body portion continues to travel toward the bending die.

16. (previously amended). A staple forming device for a stapler of the type in which staples are driven by a driver blade into a workpiece and which includes a staple magazine in which are stored a longitudinal band of interconnected staple blanks that are advanced by a feed device onto a bending die, the bending die having an upper support surface over which the staple blanks are bent into a staple shape that exhibits a first and a second leg with an intermediate crown portion, said staple forming device comprising:

a first leg-bending portion and a second leg-bending portion with an intermediate crown-forming portion having a stamping surface;

a drive means for driving said stamping surface from a starting position of a staple-forming motion in which the staple forming device is brought against the bending die and whereupon said first and second leg-bending parts bend the staple blank into a staple shape over the bending die, said drive means further configured for continuing the staple forming motion so that the stamping surface advances a distance such that the stamping surface of the crown-forming part presses the crown portion of the staple blank against the support surface, whereupon the staple forming device is reciprocated by said drive means to said starting position and a bent staple is fed forward into an operative position with respect to a driver blade; and

said crown-forming portion being displaceably interconnected by an elastic element to a main body portion including said first leg-bending portion and said second leg-bending portion of the staple forming device and arranged for reciprocation of said crown-forming portion relative to said main body portion.

17. (original). A staple forming device as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

said elastic element is provided in the form of a hairpin-shaped leaf spring.

18. (original). A staple forming device as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

said crown-forming portion being secured to said main body portion of said staple forming device by a first and second guide arrangement, each of which are configured for facilitating reciprocation of said crown-forming portion relative to said main body portion of said staple forming device.

19. (original). A staple forming device as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

an integrated driver blade.

20. (new). A staple forming device for bending staple blanks into a shape suitable for being driven into an article including a plurality of components for securing those components together, said staple forming device comprising:

a staple forming arrangement having a main body portion, including at least one leg-bending portion, and a staple crown-forming portion, said main body portion being connected in a reciprocating manner to said staple crown-forming portion whereby said main body portion and said staple crown-forming portion are in slidable relation;

an elastic element interconnected between said main body portion and said staple crown-forming portion, said elastic element biasing said staple crown-forming portion away from said

main body portion and permitting said staple crown-forming portion to yield toward said main
body portion during staple blank bending.